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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TAIPEI 004067

SIPDIS

STATE PLEASE PASS TO AIT/W, EAP/RSP/TC AND OES/IHA

HHS PLEASE PASS TO ERIKA ELVANDER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AMED AMGT CASC ECON SENV SOCI TBIO TW WHO

SUBJECT: AIT PREPARATIONS FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA

REF: A) TAIPEI 03713 B) TAIPEI 02931 C) SECSTATE 79781 D)
SECSTATE 181885

11. Summary. This cable reports on AIT's preparations to respond to a potential avian influenza (H5N1) pandemic. The basic assumption is that AIT would draw down and drastically reduce its services in the event of an outbreak. Based on reftel D, AIT will revisit our current plans, which include a tripwire cable for proposed recommendations to the Emergency Action Committee (EAC) at various stages of a potential avian influenza (H5N1) outbreak (reftel b). AIT has also developed an avian influenza (H5N1) communication strategy for AIT and broader American community. End Summary.

Actions

12. AIT has completed and submitted a tripwire cable regarding proposed recommendations to the Emergency Action Committee (EAC) at various stages of a potential avian influenza (H5N1) outbreak (reftel b). Following up on the tripwire cable, AIT/T and AIT/K have drafted essential personnel rosters. Our working assumption is that AIT will do everything it can to limit the number of people who would come into work by limiting services to only the most essential including: American citizen services and emergency visa services, management support (to assist those working in consular and, if warranted, evacuees), medical services for our AIT community, and security (to keep the building and community safe). If we determine in conjunction with the Department of State that it is possible and prudent, we would also consider recommending that we evacuate non-essential staff and family members. Much along the line of the new guidance in reftel D, AIT EAC has discussed the probability that evacuation might not be feasible or prudent. In this case, the prophylactic use of oseltamivir would be unworkable. We have begun discussing alternate approaches and look forward to more detailed direction in the forthcoming "Avian Influenza Guide for Department of State Medical Services Personnel."

13. AIT has also developed an avian influenza communication plan. In accordance with this plan, on September 30, AIT held two town hall meetings for the AIT community to answer questions about avian influenza (H5N1). To ensure all Americans in Taiwan have access to the information shared at the town hall meetings, AIT has posted a list of Department-cleared questions and answers on Avian influenza on our website. We have also added links to the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, and Taiwan's Center for Disease control to the AIT website.

14. In addition, AIT's Regional Medical Officer has briefed the Taipei American Chamber of Commerce and the Taipei American School on AIT's preparations. AIT has also begun informal discussions with other representative offices. We are scheduling additional meetings to brief all of these groups as we obtain new information.

15. Finally, AIT has reviewed all Taiwan's preparations plans and reported on them in reftel A. AIT will update Washington on AIT and Taiwan preparations as they evolve.

Supplies

16. The Department has provided AIT with 150 courses of oseltamivir. We have currently identified 45 US Direct Hire and 84 LES essential employees including including 7 screeners and 3 Health Care Workers. We have also estimated that, even if a draw down were implemented, 21 eligible family members would remain and require medication. Based on the new guidance contained in reftel D, AIT will reconvene the EAC to reevaluate our current plans. In addition to oseltamivir AIT has stockpiled the following personal protective equipment (PPE):

- 3920 N95 masks
- 70 gowns
- 200 pairs of gloves
- 26 pairs of washable goggles
- 130 12 oz bottles of hand sanitizer
- 1446 Packs of oseltamivir 75 mg (Tamiflu) #10/pack
- 4 one gallon bottles of bleach solution

17. AIT has also ordered an additional:

- 660 N95 masks
- 1280 gowns

- 1150 pairs of gloves
- 30 pairs of washable goggles
- 450 flu vaccines

18. AIT is planning on ordering additional supplies to support essential staff. AIT is further prepared to furnish a supply of telephones for visiting CDC/WHO etc (likely from current TDY supply and/or from potential departing US employees).

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